AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces and supersedes all previous listings.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An object of value with a security element, wherein the security element has at least one liquid-crystalline material, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material effects a linear polarization of light.

2. (Original) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal.

3. (Previously Presented) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material has a layer thickness of 100 to 1000 nanometer.

4. (Previously Presented) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is applied all-over or in certain areas.

5. (Previously Presented) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is applied onto a background, which has at least one of patterns or characters.

6. (Original) The object of value according to claim 5, characterized in that the background is printed, is produced by inking a substrate or with the help of a laser.

7. (Previously Presented) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the liquid-crystalline material, the background or a further layer has properties testable by at least one of machine or visually testable.

8. (Previously Presented) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the security element is a label.

9. (Previously Presented) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the object of value is a security paper, a security document or a product packaging.

10. (Previously Presented) The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the security element has at least one of at least one further layer producing optical effects or a protection layer, which cover at least a part of the security element.

11. (Original) A security element for protecting objects of value, wherein the security element has at least one liquid-crystalline material, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material effects a linear polarization of light.

12. (Original) The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal.

13. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material has a layer thickness of 100 to 1000 nanometer.

14. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material is applied all-over or in certain areas.

15. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the carrier of the liquid-crystalline material is a birefringent foil with predetermined phase shift.

16. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the security element has at least one of at least one further layer producing optical effects or a protection layer, which cover at least a part of the security element.

17. (Previously Presented) The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the security element is a security thread, a lookthrough register or a planchet.

18. (Currently Amended) A transfer material for producing a security element ~~as recited in claim 11, characterized in that the transfer material has~~ comprising: a carrier material, on which is disposed at least one liquid-crystalline material, wherein the liquid-crystalline material is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal, and wherein the liquid-crystalline material effects a linear polarization of light.

19. (Original) The transfer material according to claim 18, characterized in that the carrier material is formed as a hot stamping foil.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an object of value ~~as recited in claim 1~~ or [[a]] security element ~~as recited in claim 11, characterized in that~~ comprising steps of:

- providing a substrate ~~is provided~~,
- applying onto this substrate at least one lyotropic liquid-crystalline material ~~is applied~~, and wherein said lyotropic liquid crystalline material is configured to effect a linear polarization of light.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, characterized in that the at least one lyotropic liquid-crystalline material is present in a solution, which under the

exertion of directed shearing force is applied onto the substrate, and that a solvent forming the solution is removed.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for testing an object of value ~~as recited in claim 1~~, characterized in that there is checked at least one of,

- whether light is linearly polarized,
- whether the light has a color effect, or
- whether a depolarization of at least one of the polarized light or a not taking place of the color effect occurs when the light passes through the bank note substrate.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein at least one of light diffusely reflected or transmitted by the object of value is checked.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~objection~~ object of value of claim 4, wherein the liquid-crystalline material is in a form of at least one of alpha numeric characters or patterns, and wherein the liquid-crystalline material affects a locally different polarization.

25. (Previously Presented) The security element of claim 14 wherein the liquid-crystalline material is in a form of at least one of alpha numeric characters or patterns.

26. (Previously Presented) The security element of claim 15 wherein said phase shift is a quarter wave or half wave shift.